

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-05 LAB-04

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 L-02 NSC-05

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8679

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, IT

SUBJECT: UNION-GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

REF: ROME 17322

1. TOP LABOR LEADERS MET WITH NEW LABOR LIMISTER TOROS DURING MORNING OF DECEMBER 13 AND WITH CONFINDUSTRIA HEAD AGNELLI AND STATE ENTERPRISE (INTERSIND) MANAGEMENT CHIEF BOYER IN AFTERNOON. FULL SCALE EXCHANGE BETWEEN CGIL, CISL, AND UIL LEADERS LAMA, STORTI AND VANNIA AND PREMIER MORO AND/OR VICE-PREMIER LA MALFA TO BE HELD DECEMBER 18 OR 19.

2. TOROS' MEETINGS WERE PRELUDE TO BROADER DISCUSSIONS WHICH WILL HAVE SIGNIFICANT IMPORTANCE FOR FUTURE RELATIONS BETWEEN UNIONS AND FOURTH MORO GOVERNMENT. UNIONS HAVE NOT YET MADE THEIR POSITION TOWARD NEW MORO CABINET ENTIRELY CLEAR PENDING DISCUSSIONS ON NUMBER OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES, INCLUDING GUARANTEED SALARIES, UNEMPLOYMENT, PENSIONS, FAMILY ALLOWANCES, PRICE LEVELS AND ELECTRICITY RATES.

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3. AT SAME TIME UNIONS ARE ALSO HOLDING DISCUSSIONS WITH

EMPLOYERS ASSOCIATIONS ON REVISIING COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE SLID-
ING SCALE. WHILE GOI NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN LATTER DIS-
CUSSIONS, MEETING ON DECEMBER 18 OR 19 WILL ESTABLISH GENERAL
FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH UNIONS AND EMPLOYERS MUST NEGOTIATE.

4. COMMENT: ITALIAN UNIONS ARE INSISTING ON PIECEMEAL, ITEM-BY-
ITEM DISCUSSIONS WITH GOI RATHER THAN GLOBAL "SOCIAL CONTRACT"
APPROACH TOWARD TACKLING SERIOUS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DIFFICULTIES
FACING COUNTRY. ABSENCE OF SOCIALISTS FROM THE CURRENT TWO-PARTY
GOVERNMENT ASSUMED TO BE AMONG IMPORTANT FACTORS CAUSING UNIONS TO
RESIST SOCIAL CONTRACT CONCEPT AT THIS TIME.VOLPE

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